

# Community Wildfire Protection Plans: Loon Lake

## COMMUNITY PROFILE:

### Location

Loon Lake is an unincorporated community undesignated by the Douglas County Comprehensive Plan. Loon Lake is located on Loon Lake Road, approximately 24 miles south from the intersection of State Highway 38.

### Population

The population of Loon Lake, according to the 2000 census, was approximately 28 people.

### Housing/Land Use

Using the Douglas County Planning Department's addressing plats, there are 39 addressed structures within the Loon Lake Area. The majority of these are homes, but there are also commercial and industrial structures.

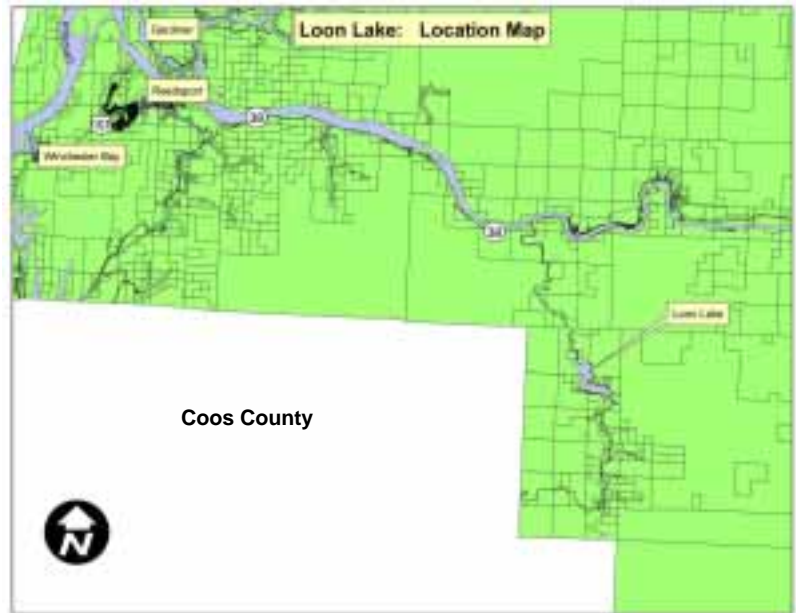
Loon Lake has zoning designations of 5R (Rural Residential 5) on the south side of the lake, and CRE (Rural Commercial) on the northern edge of the lake. The lands surrounding Loon Lake are zoned with resource designations of TR (Timberland Resource), FG (Farm Grazing) and FF (Farm Forest).

### Transportation

Roads: Transportation to and from Loon Lake is handled primarily via Loon Lake Road, which intersects State Highway 38. The community is served to the south by Loon Lake Road to a locked gate at the south.

### Critical Infrastructure

Because a large amount of Loon Lake Properties have boat-only access, critical infrastructure in Loon Lake includes docks and parking areas located on the Loon Lake Road side of the lake. Other infrastructure includes: a narrow bridge at north end of lake, and a locked gate at south end of gate.



## **WILDFIRE RISK ASSESSMENT**

### **History**

Fire History information is from the Coos Fire Protection Information and includes all historic fires from the Coos District in the years from 1980-1999. Fires listed may be located outside of the Community Wildfire Protection Plan Area.

Hunter Creek	138 acres	1980
Old Diggins	994 acres	1982
Brush Prairie	326 acres	1982
Burnt Mountain	145 acres	1985
Morgan Ridge	222 acres	1987
Brewster Rock	71 acres	1987
Graze Fires	736 acres	1987
Williams River	687 acres	1988
Willow Creek	200 acres	1988
Rock Creek	516 acres	1988
Whiskey Run	225 acres	1991
Humbug #2	177 acres	1991
Hudson Ridge	52 acres	1991
Joe Hall	145 acres	1993
China Creek	570 acres	1993
Myers Creek	110 acres	1993
Goat Rock	123 acres	1993
Tahkenitch	80 acres	1994
Whiskey Run	380 acres	1999

### **Emergency Equipment and Staffing Inventory**

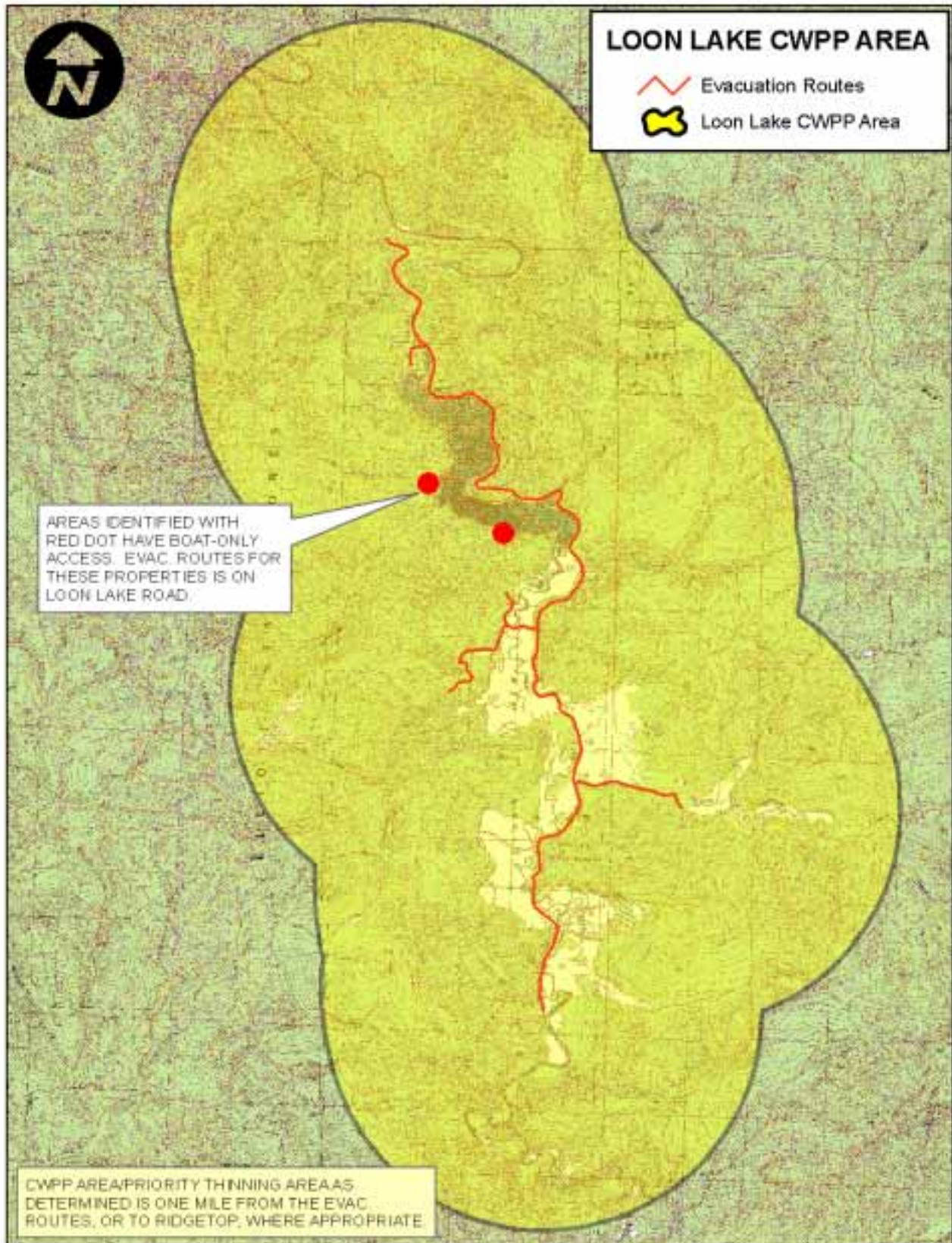
Loon Lake has no structure protection or a rural fire district. For areas outside of the rural fire district, the Coos Forest Patrol provides wildland fire protection, and Lower Umpqua Hospital provides medical assistance.

### **Escape Routes**

In the event of a wildfire, the community would utilize the main evacuation route of Loon Lake Road North to Highway 38. In the event that the northern route was unusable, the evacuation would be southward on Loon Lake Road possible only if gate is unlocked. Departure to east on Soup Creek Road, or to west on Thousand Road into the Elliot State Forest

### Priority Fuel Reduction Area Identification

The Douglas County Community Wildfire Protection Plans Core Team has identified priority fuel treatment areas for the Loon Lake area. Using concentrations of homes, maintaining evacuation routes, and vegetation types as a guide, the following map was created, identifying priority treatment areas:



# MITIGATION ACTION PLAN

## Fuels Reduction

### Identification and prioritization of treatment areas

Treatment Areas 1: Clearing 100' from homes and structures and critical infrastructure areas- concentrated on north side of lake and boat access homes on the south side of Loon Lake. Narrow escape routes to be cleaned and widened where needed. Thinning for structures to 300'. Maintain all roads for fire fighting access during initial and extended attack.

Treatment Areas 2: Escape routes for homes located south of Loon Lake to be thinned 300'.

Treatment Areas 3: Areas located beyond the Rural Community Boundary to be thinned where appropriate.

### Type of fuel reduction treatment

Mechanical clearing and thinning in fuel reduction areas identified by the Community Wildfire Protection Plan Core, including harvesting, thinning, mowing, chipping, cutting and piling.

Chemical treatment is to be done where appropriate and consistent with State and Federal Regulations.

Prescribed burning where appropriate shall be pursued as a method of fuels reduction.

Biologic treatment of areas (Grazing, etc.) is to be encouraged where use would be a benefit to agriculture as well as fuel reduction projects.

## Structural Ignitability

Structural ignitability, defined as the home and its immediate surroundings, separates the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) structure fire loss problem from other landscape-scale fire management issues.

Highly ignitable homes can be destroyed during lower-intensity wildfires, whereas homes with low home ignitability can survive high-intensity wildfires.

Structural ignitability, rather than wildland fuels, is the principal cause of structural losses during wildland/urban interface fires. Key items are flammable roofing materials (e.g. cedar shingles) and the presence of burnable vegetation (e.g. ornamental trees, shrubs, wood piles) immediately adjacent to homes, also referred to as "survivable space"



Image and Text Source: *Emerging Knowledge about Wildland-Urban Interface Home Ignition Potential*; Jack D. Cohen, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service Rockv Mountain Research Station Fire Sciences Laboratory

**Action Items:**

- Education of homeowners regarding reducing structural ignitability, and promotion of reduced ignitability building products and development of survivable space adjacent to their homes
- Seek assistance (technical, financial) for homeowners to replace highly ignitable building materials and thinning of burnable vegetation adjacent to homes

**Education**

Promote existing education and outreach programs (an example would be the Firewise Program, [www.firewise.org](http://www.firewise.org)) and develop community specific education programs which enhance and implement information on community escape routes, wildfire mitigation activities and reducing the risk to citizens, property and community values

**Action Items:**

- Use and maintain the Douglas County Community Wildfire Protection Plans website for wildfire status and evacuation plans (<http://healthyforest.info/cwpp/Oregon/Douglas/>)
- Identification, and public awareness of community wildfire escape routes
- Presentations and awareness campaigns to local schools
- Structural ignitability awareness and replacement of flammable building materials

Through involvement and consultation in the development of the Douglas County Wildfire Protection Plans, the Coos Forest Protection Association hereby agrees to the final contents of the Community Wildfire Protection Plan:



9/17/04

Mike Robison  
District Manager  
Coos Forest Protection Association

Date